

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 8 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 4 and 8 are amended for the Examiner's consideration. Claim 4 has been amended to eliminate the word "if" in response to the Examiner's comments, and claim 8 has been amended to properly depend from claim 1.

In the specification, paragraph [0058] beginning at page 12, line 13 has been amended to delete an inadvertent reference to an element that does not appear in the figures. No new matter has been added with this amendment.

The undersigned notes with appreciation that the Examiner has acknowledged the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a) - (d) or (f) and that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Claims 1 - 8 have been rejected as being anticipated by Ditzik (US 5,983,073). This rejection is traversed.

With respect to claim 1, the relay apparatus of the present invention requires, "...a plurality of communication means are connected and which **individually interfaces** with the communication means..." The subject invention is focused on providing interfaces with multiple communication devices. These devices are connected through separate and distinct interfaces within the relay apparatus. This allows communication information (data, voice, and/or image) to be received simultaneously from different sources. The user can select between the different communication means maintaining the connection to each communication system. That is, the user can be reading incoming e-mail messages while participating in a voice conversation. These interfaces are shown, for exemplary purposes, in Figure 1 of the patent application as separate interfaces (11A, 11B, 11C, and 11D). Hence, the claim requires: "external connection interface means to which a plurality of communication means are connected and which **individually interfaces** with the communication means" (emphasis added).

Ditzik (US 5,983,073), in sharp contrast, provides a single interface for the external communications devices. Specifically, Ditzik (US 5,983,073) provides the

External Communication Control 54 as the only interface for both wireless and wired communications means regardless of the number of wireless or wired communications means. In the paragraph beginning Column 12, line 50, Ditzik (US 5,983,073) describes element 54 as, "...communications means 54 should be capable of controlling communications to and from a plurality of wire and wireless communication systems..." Figure 7 of Ditzik (US 5,983,073) also shows element 54 as connecting to both a wired terminal and a wireless terminal. The operation of the External Communication Control 54 requires the user to communication with only one external communication means at a time. That is, the user would have to terminate one communication conversation before switching to the other system communication means.

As for the elements 27, 46, and 62 cited by the Examiner, these interfaces are not for external communications means. Ditzik element 27 is a PC Card interface 27 as described in Ditzik (US 5,983,073) (col. 12, beginning at line 13, "...may be embodied for bus expansion, extended memory or other added circuitry having access to the main bus 60..." A bus interface card is not an external communications means interface. Ditzik element 46 is described (col. 12, line 19) as, "...a smart card interface 46..." This is also not an external communications means interface. As defined by the web based information site How Stuff Works, "Smart cards can be used with a smart-card reader attachment to a personal computer to authenticate a user. Web browsers also can use smart card technology to supplement Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) for improved security of Internet transactions." Source: What is a smart card? <http://www.howstuffworks.com/question332.htm>

© 1998 - 2006 HowStuffWorks, Inc. A smart card is not an external communications means interface. Ditzik element 62 is described (col. 12, beginning at line 65) as, "The external I/O port means 62 may be connected to a Universal Series Bus (USB)." This interface is an internal bus interface and an internal bus interface is not an external communications means interface.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and would not be anticipated by Ditzik for the same reasons. In addition, claim 2 requires the control for acquiring unique

communication information for each of the individual and separate external communication interfaces. As for claim 3, the common control for display would include displaying information from the multiple external communications means at the same time. Ditzik (US 5,983,073) provides for display of the single communication conversation that is occurring at one time. Ditzik (US 5,983,073) does not provide for simultaneous multiple conversations and does not control the display of related information for these simultaneous multiple conversation. Regarding claim 4, the response determination means is in relationship to communication conducted simultaneously as discussed above. The reference cited by the Examiner (col. 3, line 10 - 14) simply states that Ditzik (US 5,983,073) will provide a wide range of communication functions using a Windows™ operating system. A wide range of communication features does not speak to or suggest the requirement for a response determination means. As for claim 5, the requirements for terminal interface and line interface are as two separate and distinct interfaces. Ditzik (US 5,983,073) combines these interface into one single control interface (element 54 of figure 7). The subject invention has the aforementioned interface as distinct and separate as discussed above for claim 1. Ditzik (US 5,983,073) does not have a separate interface and cannot utilize the two external capabilities simultaneously. Claims 6 and 7 are also related to the requirement of the base claim that has separate interfaces for each of the external communication means. This capability provides for the ability to conduct simultaneous communications across multiple communication systems as discussed above. Thus the connection of the line interface means and terminal interface means of claim 6 includes these elements as separate interfaces and not a switched interface as for Ditzik (US 5,983,073). While claim 7 discusses the simultaneous connection of portable (wireless) communications with a line communication means. As discussed above, Ditzik (US 5,983,073) has the line and wireless interface connecting through a single element called the “communications means 54.” With respect to claim 8, Ditzik (US 5,983,073) does not provide for simultaneous access to each of the different types of communications (e.g., speech, e-mail, image) as does the subject invention. This requirement is stated in claim 1, as

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discussed above, upon which claim 8 depends. Therefore, Ditzik (US 5,983,073) does not provide the features required by claim 8.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1 - 8 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: mike@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



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